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Russia's 'Fatal Errors'

CPYRGHT

What many had despaired of is happening in the Soviet satellites and even in Russia itself.

Youth is in the front line fighting ranks of the revolt against Communist dictatorship — the segment of the population most thoroughly indoctrinated in Communist doctrine, the object of communism's most ardent wooing.

That once seemed unlikely. Children were growing up knowing no other kind of life. Their elders were farther away from freedom and growing older. And fewer. The World War II

generation remembered the fanatic Hitler Youth.

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Yet in recent days we have been reading of the young people in Budapest attacking Russian tanks with antiquated rifles, "Molotov cocktails," sticks and stones, of mere children shooting as they had been taught in Communist youth organizations.

East Germany has been redoubling its efforts to win the support of the young, earmarking huge sums for scholarship grants, Soviet Zone youth organizations, welfare and recreation for the young.

East Germany had taken note of the role of students in the Hungarian uprising. It had probably been alarmed by the fact that almost half of the Soviet Zone refugees arriving in West Germany were under 25 — the age group in which indoctrination should have been most effective.

The Romanian army — young men, again — is reportedly being disarmed. In Hungary many army units joined the rebels.

In both Poland and Hungary the revolts began in student demonstrations.

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Allen W. Dulles, Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, said recently that the new Soviet leaders had made two "fatal errors" if they propose to retain the hard dictatorship taught by Lenin and Stalin. One was to admit the Tito experiment to respectability.

The other, and perhaps a worse mistake, was to believe that they could introduce mass education and still "close off" their people from access to the realities of the outside world.

Said Mr. Dulles: "In the industrial and educational progress which they have made, they have gone far toward turning serfs into thinking human beings.

"They have seen satellites move dramatically toward freedom, and it is not too much to predict that the Soviet Union can never be the same as it was in the days of Stalin."

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There were other errors. The Manchester Guardian recently said that many of the "new" Russian workers "must be the men and women who have been released from prisons and camps in the past few years, who have taken part in prisoners' strikes, and who have learned that organized action by the prisoners — or workers — can yield results even in Russia."

Thus the stage was set by those who put their hopes in youthful docility, and who thereby unleashed against the regime those who had the most to gain by successful revolt — the young who, if they could survive, could look forward to long lives under better conditions.

It is the young who have the strength to fight, who waste less time bunting the costs; the young who have the drive to rebel, and no stake in the status quo to deter them.

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Young people are demonstrating that Communist rule cannot, in the long run, succeed or survive.

On the one hand it must have educated people to build its machines and run its factories for either hot or cold war. On the other hand, educated people can read, think, and act.